

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TAIPEI 01956 311236Z

ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

HA-05 CU-04 TRSE-00 /070 W

-----057720 010209Z /63

R 310851Z MAR 78

FM AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6921

INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG

USLO PEKING

C O N F I D E N T I A L TAIPEI 01956

E.O.11652: GDS

TAGS: SHUM, PINT

SUBJECT: PRESBYTERIAN ASSEMBLY DEFIES GROC

REF: (A) TAIPEI 1751, (B) TAIPEI 1859

1. EMBASSY HAS LEARNED FROM RELIABLE SOURCES THAT THE PRESBYTERIAN GENERAL ASSEMBLY MEETING IN TAINAN (REF. A) HAS RE-ELECTED SECRETARY GENERAL KAO CHUN-MING (245 TO 49, WITH EIGHT INVALID VOTES), AND HAS PASSED RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE CONTROVERSIAL PRESBYTERIAN "DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS" WHICH ADVOCATES INDEPENDENCE FOR TAIWAN BY A VOTE OF 250 TO 49. TO DATE, ONLY THE KMT-OWNED CHUNG YANG JIH PAO HAS NOTED THAT THE ASSEMBLY PASSED A "POLITICAL DECLARATION"; HOWEVER, ALL PAPERS PREVIOUSLY REPORTED THE INTERIOR MINISTRY'S WRITTEN WARNING TO THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH TO REFRAIN FROM POLITICAL ACTIVITIES (REF. B).

2. HAVING BELATEDLY WARNED THE PRESBYTERIANS TO STAY OUT OF POLITICS, THE GROC IS NOW FACED WITH A FAIT ACCOMPLI AND MAY FEEL COMPELLED TO RESPOND. CONTROVERSY WITHIN THE CHURCH CONTINUES, WITH SEVERAL NORTHERN
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GROUPS THREATENING TO WITHDRAW IF THE ASSEMBLY DOES NOT REVOKE ITS RESOLUTION REGARDING THE DECLARATION. PRESS COVERAGE IS BROAD BUT SPOTTY IN QUALITY AND THE ISSUE MAY NOT BE PLAYED OUT FOR SOME TIME. WE EXPECT TO GET MORE INFORMATION AFTER CONFERENCE ENDS (MARCH 31) AND PARTICIPANTS RETURN TO PRESBYTERIES. UNGER

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Message Attributes

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